

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of cutting a lens from a cylindrical blank of lens material comprising:
 - attaching the cylindrical blank to a block of machineable plastic material;
 - mounting the block in a lathe collet and lathe cutting a desired first lens surface in the cylindrical blank;
 - attaching the machined first lens surface of the blank to a second block while the blank remains adhered to the block of machinable plastic material;
 - mounting the second block in a lathe collet, and lathe cutting to remove the block of machineable plastic material; and
 - lathe cutting a desired second lens surface, opposite the first lens surface, in the blank.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein a desired concave, base curve is lathe cut while the block of machineable plastic material is mounted in the lathe collet, and a desired convex, front curve is lathe cut while the second block is mounted in the lathe collet.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the block of machineable plastic material is adhered to the blank by an adhesive curable by ultraviolet radiation.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein the block of machinable plastic material is transparent to ultraviolet radiation, and is adhered to the blank by transmitting ultraviolet radiation through this block to cure the adhesive.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the block of machineable plastic material is cylindrically shaped and has a diameter less than a diameter of the cylindrical blank.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein the second block is adhered to the machined first lens surface of the blank by an adhesive curable by ultraviolet radiation.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second block is transparent to ultraviolet radiation, and is adhered to the blank by transmitting ultraviolet radiation through this block to cure the adhesive.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein removal of the block of machineable plastic material and lathe cutting the desired second lens surface are performed while the second block and blank are mounted in the same lathe collet.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the block of machineable plastic material is removed by lathe cutting with the second block mounted in one lathe, followed by lathe cutting the desired second lens surface with the second block mounted in a separate lathe.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein lathe cutting to remove the block of machineable plastic material also involves reducing thickness of the blank to a desired, controlled thickness.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein lathe cutting of the desired first lens surface also involves removing material circumferentially from the cylindrical blank to obtain a blank with a desired diameter.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the block of machineable plastic material is mounted in a lathe collet having a dead stop collet, thereby permitting control of depth of the cutting of the desired first lens surface.

13. The method of claim 1, further comprising, following lathe cutting of the desired second lens surface, separating the lens from the second block.

14. The method of claim 2, wherein the second block is composed of a head section and a body section:

the head section comprising a convex upper surface for adhering to the concave base curve of the blank,

the body section comprising an elongated cylindrical body, and
a lower portion of the head section being releasably securable in an upper portion of the body section.

15. The method of claim 14, further comprising, following lathe cutting of the desired convex front curve:

separating the head section from the body section of the second block, the lens being retained on the head section; and

separating the lens from the head section of the second block.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the lens is separated from the of the second block by immersion of the head section and lens in a heated aqueous bath.

17. The method of claim 1, wherein the lens is a contact lens.

18. A method of preparing a cylindrical blank of lens material for lathe cutting a lens therefrom comprising:

attaching to the lens blank a block of plastic material with an adhesive curable by ultraviolet radiation, said block being transparent to ultraviolet radiation, and transmitting ultraviolet radiation through the block to cure the adhesive.

19. The method of claim 18, further comprising, following lathe cutting a desired first lens surface in the blank, attaching to the cut first lens surface of the blank a second block of plastic material with an adhesive curable by ultraviolet radiation, said second block being transparent to ultraviolet radiation, and transmitting ultraviolet radiation through this second block to cure the adhesive.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein the lens is a contact lens.

21. An article comprising:

a block for attachment to a contact lens blank having a concave, base curve surface, the block comprising a head section and a body section,
the head section comprising a convex upper surface for adhering to the concave base curve of the blank,
the body section comprising an elongated cylindrical body, and
a lower portion of the head section being releasably securable in an upper portion of the body section.

22. The article of claim 21, wherein the lower portion of the head section has a tapered substantially cylindrical shell providing an interference fit with a corresponding tapered section on the upper portion of the body section.

23. A method comprising polishing a lathe cut lens surface with polishing pad including a polishing agent but lacking solvent or a liquid suspension for said polishing agent, and removing residues of the polishing agent from the lens when the lens is hydrated in an aqueous bath, said method avoiding use of a nonaqueous solvent or liquid suspension.